

Message Text

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44

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 SY-05 USSS-00 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 COME-00 AGR-05 L-02 /049 W

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O 041215Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2508

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 1073

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.)

SUBJ: TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA

REF: STATE 75053; STATE 75912

1. GSL, ALSO TIED UP WITH IPU, HAS NOT COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS FOR OFFICIAL PART OF SECRETARY'S PROGRAM IN SRI LANKA. FOLLOWING IS TENTATIVE:

APRIL 21

9:15 AM ARRIVE BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIOAL AIRPORT (BIA)

9:30 AM DEPART BIA

10:20 AM ARRIVE HOTEL CEYLON INTERCONTINENTAL, COLOMBO

10:50 AM DEPART HOTEL CEYLON INTERCONTINENTAL

11:00 AM MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE

12:00 NOON POSSIBLE MEETING WITH OTHER SENIOR GSL OFFICIAL, FOR EXAMPLE BERNARD SOYSA, WHO WILL BE ACTING FINANCE MINISTER

1:00 PM LUNCH GIVEN BY GSL

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3:00 PM END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM.

2. OPTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING OFFICIAL PROGRAM:

A. REMAIN COLOMBO VERNIGHT. SHOP, SWIM IN
INTER-CONTINENTAL POOL OR IN OCEAN AT MT LAVINIA
HOTEL (25 MINUTES' DRIVE FROM INTER-CONTINENTAL),
DRIVE AROUND COLOMBO. DEPART HOTEL AT 7:00 OR 8:00
AM APRIL 22, DRIVE NORTH ALONG SHORE ROAD TO NEGOMBO.
ONE HOUR DIRECT, LONGER IF STOPS MADE ALONG WAY.
SWIM AT BROWN'S BEACH HOTEL, NEGOMBO. DEPART BROWN'S
BEACH FOR AIRPORT AT 11:40 AM FOR 12:00 NOON TAKE-
OFF.

B. DRIVE TO NEGOMBO IMMEDIATELY AFTER LUNCH,
REMAIN OVERNIGHT AT BROWN'S BEACH HOTEL, LEAVE FOR
AIRPORT AT 11:40 AM APRIL 22.

C. LEAVE COLOMBO AT 3:15 PM APRIL 21 FOLLOWING
GSL LUNCH AND DRIVE 1-1/2 HOURS SOUTH ALONG COAST TO
BENTOTA. REMAIN OVERNIGHT AT BENTOTA BEACH OR NEPTUNE
HOTEL. SWIM IN HOTEL POOL OR IN OCEAN IF CONDITIONS
ARE RIGHT (MOONSOON MAKES SEA-BATHING ON SOUTHERN
COAST DANGEROUS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR). DEPART
BENTOTA AT 9:30 A.M. TUESDAY, APRIL 22, FOR DRIVE
NORTH ALONG COAST TO BIA FOR NOON TAKE-OFF.

D. LEAVE FOR ANCIENT CAPITAL OF KANDY AT 3:15
P.M. AFTER GSL LUNCH. ARRIVE KANDY AT 6:00 P.M.
REMAIN OVERNIGHT. TOUR KANDY, VISIT TEMPLE OF SACRED
TOOTH RELIC AND ELEPHANT BATHS, AND SHOP. DEPART
KANDY AT 9:00 A.M. APRIL 22, RETURNING TO BIA BY
WAY OF ATTANGALLE (PRIME MINISTER'S ELECTORATE).

E. VISIT TO NUWARA ELIYA IN HIGH TEA COUNTRY
COULD ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN IN TIME AVIALABLE IF TRIP
WERE MADE BY HELICOPTER. NUWARA ELIYA HAS EXCELLENT
SCENERY AND OUTSTANDING GOLF COURSE.

3. SRI LANKA AIR FORCE FLIES HELICOPTERS ON TOURIST
CHARTER. THEY COULD LEAVE FROM INTER-CONTINENTAL PAD
AND RETURN THERE OR AT BIA. FOUR PASSENGERS PER
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HELICPOTER AND HAND BAGGAGE ONLY. TIMES AND COSTS
PER HELICOPTER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. BENTOTA: 45 MINUTES; \$300 ROUND-TRIP WITH
OVERNIGHT STAY; \$250 ONE WAY.
B. KANDY: 1-1/2 HOURS; \$330 ROUND-TRIP WITH
OVERNIGHT STAY; \$280 ONE WAY. ON KANDY TRIP THEY COULD
ALSO LAND AT HUNAS FALLS HOTEL, HIGH IN CENTER OF
TEA ESTATE NEAR KANDY.

C. NUWARA ELIYA: DIRECT ROUND-TRIP OVER-NIBHT \$330; RETURNING VIA KANDY \$380; 1-1/2 HOURS ONE-WAY DIRECT, 2 HOURS BY WAY OF KANDY.
IN CONSIDERING HELICOPTER OPTION, ACCOUNT MUST BE TAKEN OF LATE AFTERNOON RAINS IF TAKE-OFF AFTER GSL LUNCH IS DELAYED AND LOGISTICS ON BAGGAGE HANDLING.

4. THERE ARE NO REGULARLY SCHEDULED AIR-COndITIONED TRAINS TO BENTOTA IN APRIL, AND REGULAR TRAINS TO KANDY DO NOT FIT TIME AVAILABLE DURING VISIT. WE ARE, HOWEVER, EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF CHARTERING SPECIAL TRAIN, WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD BE COSTLY.

5. WE SHALL COMMUNICATE DETAILS OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

VAN HOLLEN

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